

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 5, 2005, claims 1-37 were pending. The Examiner allowed claims 27-35, rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17-26, 36, and 37, and objected to claims 5, 8, 13, and 16 as containing allowable subject matter, but depending from a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated that he would allow claims 5, 8, 13, and 16, if they were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants cancel claims 1-3, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18-26 and 36 without prejudice or disclaimer. After entry of this Amendment, claims 4, 5, 7-9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 27-35, and 37 will be pending.

Applicants have amended claims 5, 8, 13, and 16 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Applicants amend claims 4, 7, 9, 12, and 17 to change their dependencies from a now-cancelled claim to the appropriate new independent claim.

Applicants have amended claim 37 to include the subject matter of original dependent claim 6 (now canceled) and allowable original dependent claim 8 (now amended to be independent). Additional support for the amendment may be found in at least Figs. 6, 7, and 10, as well as pages 8-10, 14-15, 36-38, 45-49, and 55-56 of the substitute specification.

Lastly, Applicants have amended method claims 12, 13, 16, and 27-29 to improve the expression of the subject matter and claims 30-35 to conform to standard presentations of wherein clauses. For example, if the original claim recited "in a step in which . . . the processing condition for said processing apparatus is reset . . . ," the amended claim now recites, "resetting the processing condition for said processing apparatus" No change in scope is intended by this rephrasing amendment.

As all of the pending claims contain subject matter previously recognized as allowable by the Examiner, Applicants believe this application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants also correct minor typographical or clerical errors in the written description. No new matter has been added.

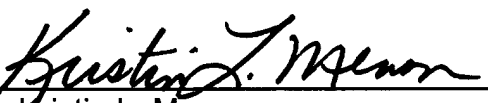
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 7, 2005

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